

# INSPECTIONS & ZONING UPDATE

Volume 3 Issue 1

Winter 2008

BUILDING CODE & ZONING NEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT CATAWBA COUNTY

## Building Code News

### New 2009 NC State Building Codes:



The anticipated adoption date of the 2009 NC State Building Codes is March 11, 2008. The proposed effective date for the 2009 NC State Building Codes is **January 1, 2009**. The Base Documents for the 2009 NC State Building Codes are the 2006 I-Codes. The proposed NC Amendments to the Sections printed in the Base Documents can be viewed at: [http://](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_codes_2009_proposed.asp)

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#### ***Inside this issue:***

Building Code News	1
Electrical Code News	2
OSHA Code News	3
Plumbing Code News	4
Mechanical Code News	5
Permit Center News	5
Local Government Contacts	6

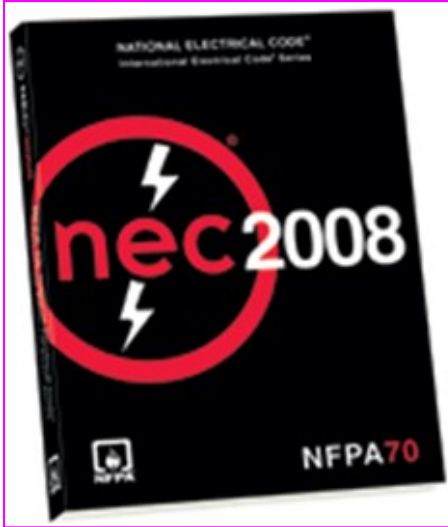
### Residential Swimming Pool Regulations:



With the adoption of the 2006 NC Residential Code, swimming pool regulations addressing both barriers and entrapment protection for pool drains became effective as of January 1, 2008. These regulations can be found in Appendix G - Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs. The regulation provides (*Building Code News Continued on Page 4*)

## ELECTRICAL CODE NEWS

National Electrical Code: The proposed effective date for the 2008 North Carolina Electrical Code is June 1st 2008. During the December Public Hearing of the NC State Building Code Council, the following proposal of changes to the 2008 NEC was submitted by the Electrical Standing Code Committee and the Electrical Ad Hoc Committee during the public comment period:



Delete the proposed Articles 10.10 and 100 from the 2008 NC Electrical Code Amendment package. Both these sections referred to Industrial Machinery.

Adopt the remainder of Article 10 from the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package. This is the administrative section of the electrical code, and it covers items such as

Service Utilities and Temporary Power.

Delete the phrase “and crawl spaces” from the 2008 NEC Article 334.15 as part of the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package.

Add a 1/1/09 effective date note to the 2008 NEC Article 406.8 (A) & (B) as part of the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package. (This section requires non locking 125 V & 250 V receptacles in damp or wet locations to be listed weather resistant type.)

The Standing Committee overturned the Ad Hoc Committee and proposes to delete the 2008 NEC Article 406.11 without amendment. ( This section refers to tamper-resistant receptacles).

Adopt the 2008 NEC Article 680.26 (C) without amendment. (This section refers to equipotential bonding of swimming pools).

Adopt the proposed Articles 210.8 (a) (3) and 250.50 from the 2008 NC Electrical Code amendment package. (This proposal will provide the same NC exceptions of the 2005 electrical code relating to GFCI receptacles and grounding electrodes).

Adopt a proposal to delete “family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, sunrooms, recreation rooms, closets, hallways or similar rooms or areas” from Article 210.12 (B) relating to Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection. Jim Pauley of Square D spoke on this item and Pauley recommended that Article 210.12 (B) be adopted as is with a January 1,

## OSHA CODE NEWS

### OSHA Requirements for Stairways & Ladders on Construction Sites:



- Install permanent or temporary guard rails on stairs before stairs are used for general access between levels to prevent someone from falling or stepping off edges.
- Do not store materials on stairways that are used for general access between levels.
- Keep hazardous projections such as protruding nails, large splinters, etc out of the stairs, steps, rails and handrails.
- Correct any slippery conditions on stairways before they are used.
- Secure ladders near the top and/or at the bottom to prevent them from slipping and causing falls.
- When you cannot tie the ladder off, be sure it is on a stable and level surface. This will prevent the ladder from falling.
- Keep manufactured and job-made ladders in good condition and free of defects.
- Inspect ladders before use for broken rungs or other defects so falls don't happen. Repair or discard defective ladders.
- Extend ladders at least 3 feet above the landing to provide a handhold or to maintain balance when getting on and off the ladder from another surface.
- Place ladders at the proper angle (1 foot out from the base for every 4 feet of vertical rise).
- Do not set up a ladder near passageways or high traffic areas where it could be knocked over.
- Use ladders only for what they were made and not as a platform, runway or scaffold planks.
- Always face the ladder and maintain three points of contact when climbing a ladder (two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand).



*(Building Code News continued from Page 1)* requirements for mandatory fences/barriers surrounding pools, access gates, audible alarms, and water circulation system protective measures to eliminate body, hair or limb entrapment. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has published a brochure which explains the regulations in laymen terms which can be downloaded at [www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pool.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/pool.pdf)

## PLUMBING CODE NEWS

### Acceptable Terminations for Water Heater Pressure Relief Valve Piping in Crawlspaces:



Recently this Division received requests regarding our policy for properly terminating the pressure relief valve discharge piping of a water heater located in the crawlspace.

The applicable code sections are Section 504.6 of the NC Plumbing Code (NCPC) and Section R408.1.4 or R409.2.4 of the NC Residential Code (NCRC).

The following are three acceptable methods of termination within a crawlspace.

1. The relief valve discharge piping shall terminate above the crawlspace drain required by section R408.2 (NCRC) with a visible air gap, or
2. The relief valve discharge piping shall terminate outdoors. Relief valve discharge pipes must not be exposed to freezing temperatures. Relief valves commonly discharge small amounts of water or may leak as a result of a fouled or failed valve seat or disc. The discharge water could freeze, thereby blocking the discharge pipe and disabling the relief valve. The relief valve discharge pipe must first discharge through an air gap into an indirect waste receptor located in the crawlspace. The piping from the indirect waste receptor shall terminate to the outdoors. The waste receptor piping shall have adequate fall and support to ensure proper drainage, or
3. The relief valve discharge piping shall discharge to an interior pump located in the crawlspace that discharges to a safe place of disposal.

## COUNTY PERMIT CENTER NEWS

Permits Issued from September 2007 through December 2007: The Catawba County Permit Center issued a total of 3,054 permits in the last quarter, with a total cost of new construction of \$199,736,205.00. There were 158 new single-family dwelling permits issued during this same time period. A few of the larger projects were: Target Distribution Center, and Adevco Spec. Call Center.



Swimming Pool Permits: Due to the recent adoption of the 2006 North Carolina Residential Code, and the new requirements for Entrapment protection and Pool barriers, the Permit Center will now be issuing a Building Permit and an Electrical Permit for swimming pools. The Building Permit will be a minimum \$88.00, and will be based on the cost of the pool minus the cost of fencing. The fee will be calculated using schedule "A" of the Catawba County Fee Schedule. The standard size pool will generally fall into the \$88.00 minimum fee range. This fee, plus the electrical fee and Permit Placard fee will total to \$154.00. There is also a new inspection that will be required for the pool drain system prior to the drain system being covered. The inspection will be called a "Rough-in Circulation Piping" inspection.

## MECHANICAL CODE NEWS

Duct Insulation: The 2006 NC Energy Code locates Catawba County in Zone 8 and requires duct work to be insulated in accordance with Table 503.3.3.3:

**TABLE 503.3.3.3  
MINIMUM DUCT INSULATION<sup>a</sup>**

ZONE	ANNUAL HEATING DEGREE DAYS	INSULATION R-VALUE (h · ft <sup>2</sup> · °F.)/Btu <sup>d</sup>			
		Ducts in unconditioned attics or outside building		Ducts in unconditioned basements, crawl spaces, garages, and other unconditioned spaces <sup>c</sup>	
		Supply	Return	Supply	Return <sup>b</sup>
1-3	< 1,500	8	4	4	0
4-7	1,500 to 3,500	8	4	6	2
8-14	3,501 to 7,500	8	4	8	2
15-17	> 7,500	11	6	11	2

For SI: °C = [(°F) - 32] / 1.8, 1 (h · ft<sup>2</sup> · °F) / Btu = 0.176 (m<sup>2</sup> · K) / W, 1 foot = 304.5 mm.

- Insulation *R*-values shown are for the insulation as installed and do not include film resistance. The required minimum *R*-values do not consider water vapor transmission and condensation. Where control of condensation is required, additional insulation, vapor retarders or both shall be provided to limit vapor transmission and condensation. For ducts that are designed to convey both heated and cooled air, duct insulation shall be as required by the most restrictive condition. Where exterior walls are used as plenums, wall insulation shall be as required by the most restrictive condition of this section.
- Insulation on return ducts in basements is not required.
- Unconditioned spaces include ventilated crawl spaces and framed cavities in those floors, wall and ceiling assemblies which separate conditioned space from unconditioned space or outside air, and are uninsulated on the side facing away from the conditioned space.
- Insulation resistance measured on a horizontal plane in accordance with ASTM C 518, at a mean temperature of 75°F.

## Local Government Contacts

**Catawba County Planning & Zoning**  
Ph. 828-465-8380 / Fax 828-465-8484

**Catawba County Building Services Safety Inspections**  
Ph. 828-466-5130 / Fax 828-322-6814

**Catawba County Fire Marshall**  
Ph. 828-465-8230 / Fax 828-464-4820

**Catawba County Environmental Health**  
Ph. 828-465-8270 / Fax 828-465-8276

**Catawba County Erosion Control**  
Ph. 828-465-8161

**Catawba County Permit Centers**  
Ph. 828-465-8399  
Fax 828-465-8962 *Newton* / Fax 828-322-6814 *Hickory*

**City of Claremont Zoning**  
Ph. 828-459-7009 / Fax 828-459-0596

**City of Claremont Fire Department**  
Ph. 828-459-9296

**City of Conover Zoning**  
Ph. 828-464-1191 / Fax 828-465-5177

**City of Conover Fire**  
Ph. 828-464-1295 / Fax 828-464-1253

**City of Hickory DAC/Zoning**  
Ph. 828-323-7556 / Fax 828-323-7474

**City of Hickory Fire**  
Ph. 828-322-7522 / Fax 828-323-7476

**City of Newton Zoning**  
Ph. 828-465-7400 / Fax 828-465-7412

**City of Newton Fire**  
Ph. 828-695-4284 / Fax 828-465-7453

**Town of Catawba Zoning**  
Ph. 828-241-2215 \ Fax 828-241-9968

**Town of Catawba Fire Inspections**  
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

**Town of Longview Zoning**  
Ph. 828-322-3921 / Fax 828-322-1567

**Town of Longview Fire Inspections**  
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

**Town of Maiden Zoning**  
Ph. 828-428-5007 / Fax 828-428-5017

**Town of Maiden Fire Inspections**  
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office



## CATAWBA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Building Services Division

100-A SW Blvd

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**For additional information regarding building codes and services in Catawba County please visit the Catawba County website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/building.asp>**

**For additional assistance please contact the following personnel:**

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